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No. 4

Melia Azedarach

A. Jones

{ 295 Market

{ Miss Pease. March 21 1822

Alexander Jones

admitted March 23d 1822

Melia Azedarach

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Submitted  
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By  
Georgia  
city

An  
Inaugural Dissertation.

on

The *Melia Azedarach*  
or

China-Tree, Poison Berry-Tree, Pride of India &c.

Submitted to the Proctor, and Medical Faculty,  
of the University of Pennsylvania, for the degree  
of Doctor of Medicine.

By Alexander Jones of Lexington  
Georgia. Member of the Philadelphia Medical  
Society &c.

Philadelphia 1822.

in the  
of respect  
inscribed

to St. A.

Medicine  
of Pennsylv  
this essay

To John Redman Cox, M.D.

Professor of Materia Medica, & Pharmacy,  
in the University of Pennsylvania. As a testimony  
of respect, this imperfect essay, is respectfully  
inscribed, by his most obedient and humble servant.

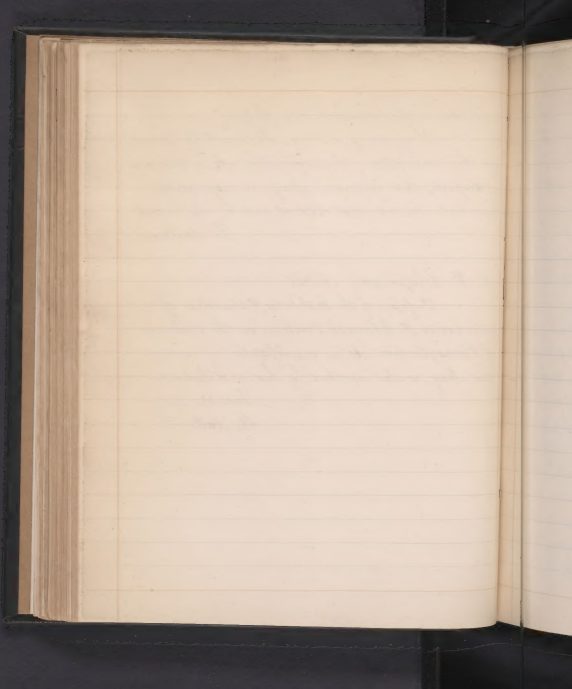
The Author.

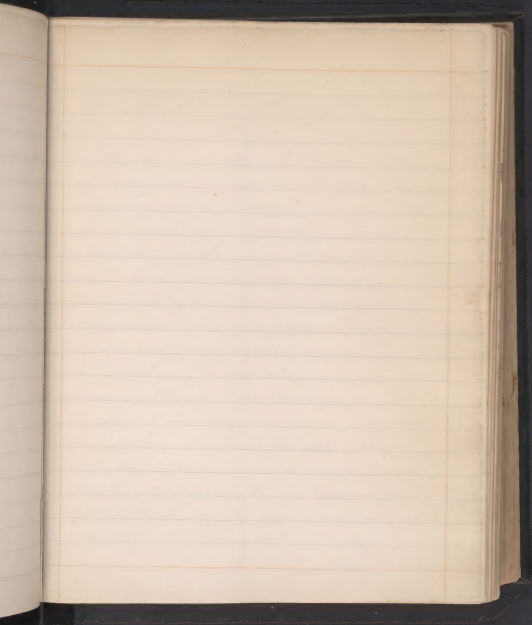
To N. Chapman. M.D.

Professor of the Institutes, & Practice of  
Medicine, & Clinical Practice, in the University  
of Pennsylvania. As a manifestation of regard  
this essay, is also inscribed, by his most obedient

Servant.

The Author.





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## *Melia Azedarach.*

*Melia* is the name adopted by Linnæus for this tree, apparently because the leaves resemble those of the Ash, which is doubtless the true *medea* of the ancient Greeks.  
Class and Order, *Dicandria, Monogynia*.  
Nat. ord. *Trikilata*, Linn. *Melia*, Sup.

There are five species described in Dr. Rees' New Cyclopædia, but I find only three species mentioned in Nicholson's Encyclopædia. The following botanical description, of the species that flourishes in the U. States, and the kind I have written upon, is taken from Dr. Rees' New Cyclopædia.

Sp. 1. *M. Azedarach*, also, here called, *Sind-tree*.  
Bride of China, &c. Leaves bipinnate, leaflets smooth, about five. Leaflets ovate, notched, pointed, green above, paler beneath. Flowers lateral, in long, loose panicles. Petals, white, streaked with pink. Fruit oblong of a pale yellow when ripe, of the size of a cherry.

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a great deal of room in the tree until they are  
left out to the casing of the tree. It is cultivated in  
all the cities and villages of Georgia for the purpose  
of supplying the market with a commodity which is  
one of the most useful for these purposes. It is better  
calculated to put it than this. The present state  
of the appearance to be improved to the purpose of  
this tree, at the same time its spreading branches  
and rich foliage, seems to attract and keep  
the eye, and to invite the many people to visit  
the house situated just the best of the  
way. It is a tree which though not very high, but  
a majestic appearance: its lower branches of the richest  
and deepest green, its branches extend and spreading,  
it looks almost the same of the tree of life.

I am a member of the United States and was  
originally born in the town of the New York  
at which it was first planted in the year 1790. It  
is now a tree of the same size and shape as  
I found it. It is now a tree of the same size and shape

[illegible]

was seen in the year 1800, but its first  
appearance in the year 1801 was about the time of Captain  
Mills' visit to the island. It is not known whether it was  
introduced by that gentleman or by  
his agency. At the time Savannah was laid  
off, its founders might have perceived the  
inconvenience that would result, from the heat  
in the summer months; as the soil being sandy  
is calculated to increase the heat; in consequence  
of which without any thing to shade the ground  
the soil would be intolerable; Savannah was an island  
that was the part of country where Capt. Mather  
made his first settlement. The climate is also  
strengthened from the fact that those trees are  
much to be seen in the west end of Savannah  
than in any other part of the state. Doubtless this  
has been introduced by the gentleman  
and since his time gradually extended to

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the north.

However, the *Pipilo* is a part is an  
entirely different to the active bird which  
seems to demand a more precise  
description. Of its musical properties we  
have the most conclusive evidence. E. B. Tilton  
in his *Ornithological notes* a case where he gave  
some of the back of the bird, in the form of a  
Latinized description, to a subject, which he  
states "enclosed some <sup>on some</sup> kind and something  
of 'hairs.' Some of these and these effects there  
was a number of 'hairs' discharged."

Doct. Allen of Georgia states that a strong  
**decoction** of the bark was given by a man,  
to two of his children, one six years, and the other  
four years old, in cases of a quart, to each, in  
the twenty-four hours; he was called, to see them  
and found their eyes nearly closed except the

\* Vide in these Collections Part. I. Page 62.



went of vision in them, and insensibility in the  
joint. The optic nerve is found perfectly healthy  
for it is the nearest to the eye, and it resisted the  
perception of light. They both expired in a short  
time after he saw them. It is also stated that  
these optic nerves then came with the brains,  
fell down and are easily caught.

The system whose scope since must have been  
but limited, with this point, is disposed to doubt  
its narcotic quality. We find that in his lecture  
he proposes the following question, viz. "Is the  
Nellie a narcotic or poisonous vegetable?"  
This I consider to be a worthy question: because  
there can be no wise distinction between a  
narcotic and a poison, as long as of one and the  
same kind, are at the same time poisonous. For  
instance, Opium, Saliva Mercuriana, Fritura  
Cicuta, Belladonna, &c. and many others, are  
strong narcotics; and at the same time if given  
in too great quantity, prove violently poisonous.

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and sensitive to moral life. We further  
found that all animals in the Natural Motion class  
all narcotics in the hand of <sup>the</sup> physician; so that  
if it is intended to prepare one properly, it contains  
both, but more especially the narcotic. What more  
clearly proves it to be a narcotic, is its having  
the same effects upon the system as some of the  
most active medicines of the narcotic class,  
for instance the Natural Stomachic affords  
the pupil of the eye pretty much in the same  
manner as the Atropia: it keeps on tearing,  
constriction, and dilation in the same way;  
but with less more rapidly than the Atropia  
and the same might be stated with respect  
to many other articles, especially the Cinchona,  
which brought on work up and trembling  
in the lower limbs of Servantes.

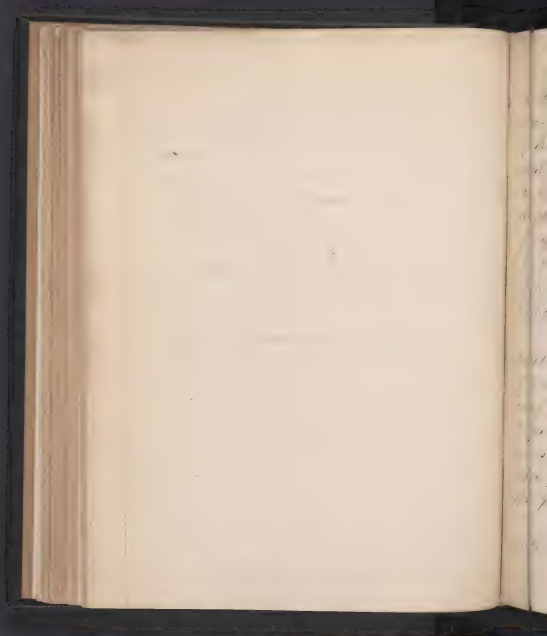
The only difference that exists in these articles  
is that they are much <sup>more</sup> active in a smaller dose  
than the Atropia.

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I think the above stated facts of incontestably  
to prove it to be a narcotic. Dr. Bostock states  
that the effects of haematox are like the effects  
that the leucis have upon rats, namely to  
disturbance of the ~~cardiac~~ <sup>cardiac</sup> ~~circulation~~ <sup>circulation</sup>, and  
many other substances would have the same  
effect; but it is well known that these birds  
can eat as much of these articles, as those can  
will contain, without experiencing any <sup>inconvenience</sup>  
- - -

The effects generally occurring when a  
large dose is given, are the following viz the  
pupils of the eyes enlarge and become fixed, and  
contractility of the pupil at first rises; but  
in short time sinks, a trembling of the hands and  
legs comes on, delirium or *del. bellus* to dream,  
and probably if saved much further death and  
- - -

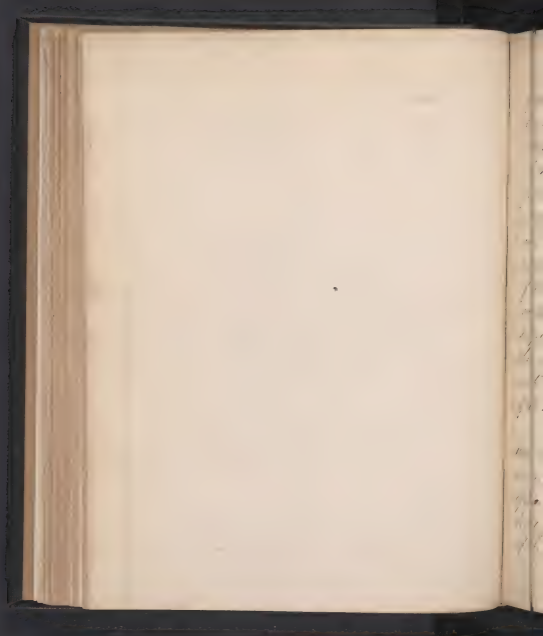
Though we suppose can be effected, and of  
sudden death, by this means, yet there can be



we doubt that the same opinion is held by the  
majority of the people. It is possible that the opinion is held  
by the educated portion of the community, but it is not  
likely that the mass of the people are so enlightened  
as to understand the principles of the constitution, and  
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of education it was first given the last Sunday  
to be read at that meeting. The nature of  
the subject was such as to interest  
the people, and it was found that  
it was a subject of great interest  
to the people. The very fact that it was  
so generally received to notice, is a proof of its  
importance for a child. But  
if the eyes of the people are  
not as they should be, it should be wholly  
suppressed, as we are at present in a state  
of ignorance of the different parts of the law, and  
rather as they are, as the people are, as the nature  
of the law.

The nature of these facts are much stronger  
than the law is in its nature, but then they  
are not so strong as they are, although they  
are not in the nature of the law. The law is in  
the nature of the law, and it is in the nature  
of the law, as the law is in the nature of the law.



The same has been observed in very numerous  
specimens of the genus *Scaphiophryne*. They are first  
the same effects for the same in the other part  
of the body. The lower appears to contain a smaller  
amount between the back of the head and the base.

The third kind of the same is also observed and  
exhibited in comparison with various specimens  
of about the same size of the genus *Scaphiophryne*. The  
latter genus is of a different color. It appears  
to be more common in the parts of the body but  
more particularly in the lower, and elsewhere.

Dr. H. of Georgia, writes in a letter to me  
that he has used the *Scaphiophryne* in its different forms, for  
some years with the most universal success in  
all the varieties of worms. In order to render it  
less offensive to children it may be given in the  
form of an extract, made into pills.

In specimens of *Scaphiophryne* I have observed the  
black granules in the epidermis, more than to measure  
any amount of granules, than when attracted at any other

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Leaves of the year. The first seems to be the best.  
Lusca for collecting it for use; It may be kept  
in the Ship for a considerable length of time  
without its sensible properties being diminished.

The last when dried has a pleasant better  
taste. The leaves have rather a sweetish taste.  
The bark of the tree collected in July lost by  
exiccation in 3<sup>l</sup>. five drachms, or 3p. The bark  
of the root collected at the same time lost by  
exiccation in 3<sup>l</sup>. five drachms; more than half  
its weight.

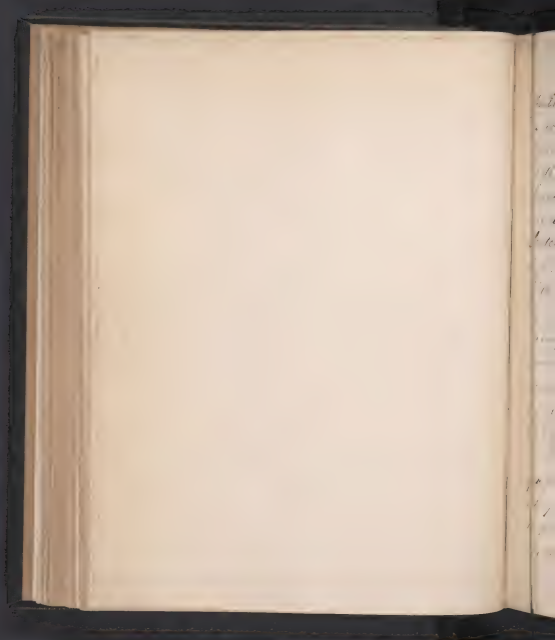
From its effect when given on the eye in  
detesting the pupil &c it would appear that it  
may be become useful in diseases, of that organ.  
And as a narcotic become useful in some  
cases, where the Stramonium is used. As to  
this point and its utility in many other  
diseases I shall leave for future experience  
to determine.

During the winter months



many bladders are in the habit of bursting  
from the trees, some containing quantities of these  
bees for their eggs, which they fasten there  
and from from whence. I have seen that if this  
fruit was given to the bees, it would be a  
kind of food for them, as the plants who  
were much dead of this kind, as feeding them on  
the fruit would save a great deal of grain.

The honey is sweet, & is very thick  
kind of fruit, in being a very faint red, and  
is produced without any trouble of cultivation to  
the farmer. The honey is in the leaves  
without being in any. In years of great scarcity,  
this fruit would be immensely useful. It  
is called in some places the May Apple -  
or the May Apple. Its fruit being a little  
red, while the other parts of the plant have  
no effect, or are not active at least.  
The fruit of the plant seems to be very so  
between the root and seed, and is of a



[illegible]



great power. It is stated by Michaux that  
in India where the tree grows spontaneously the  
juice of the fruit is fermented with water and  
it used as an antidote in case of snake  
bites. Dr. Barton states "that the fruit of the  
mistle is employed for poisoning an exposed  
animal, which grows hard like leather, and is used  
for medicinal purposes. The wood of the tree  
is also used for medicine, and they resemble the  
tree and called *Sp.* in India, or Spanish  
bark, that is used in the Island of Cuba,  
for ship building. &c







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Mr. Bacon - March 22  
98 Wt 5 lb 12 - Mr. Berman

Wm. Bacon - New Jersey

admitted March 22d 1822

Medicinal Effects  
Sold & Applications,

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For Oliver's Library

Sept. 18th 1882

Received of  
Mr. [illegible]

An Enquiry into  
the Moral Effects of Love Appointments  
in Divorce

Submitted

To the Honorable & Learned Faculty  
of the University of Pennsylvania

For the Degree of M. A.

By William L. Garrison

of the State of New Jersey

